

INFORMATION REPORT

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25X1A SUBJECT Various Czech Industrial Plants

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1. Avia Works, Kunovice 232

- a. The Avia Works are now producing Skoda 706 R0 busses and 706 R trucks. Unidentified component parts of jet aircraft engines and Diesel motors for ships and vehicles are also being manufactured. Messerschmidt-type fighters and one other type of fighter are being completed at Avia, plus helicopters and Arado training planes. The Avia complex consists of two separate units: Plants I and II.
- b. Plant I, which employs 400 workers in two shifts, receives semi-finished products from the Poldina Hut at Kladno, the Plzen Skoda works, and the Trinec iron foundries. Electric power is obtained from Ervenice, near Most. The plant also has two steam turbines, only one of which is placed in operation during the daytime.
- c. Plant I is engaged in a number of activities, including the overhauling of aircraft engines, the conversion of transport planes for civilian use, the assembly of fighter planes, and the production of injection pumps, machine guns, and pistols.
- d. One of the larger Plant I installations is a new hangar in which DC-3 transports are reconverted for civilian traffic. Some time ago a number of Messerschmidt planes were assembled in this hangar. Some of the aircraft were to be flown to Palestine, but when no reliable pilots could be found, they were dismantled again and flown in pieces to Palestine in transport planes.
- e. The Plant I assembly shop assembles aircraft engines. The shop is under the direction of one Ceska; his deputy is a man named Hrazdira. The shop is equipped with the following machine tools: 50 milling machines, 70 drills, 100 lathes, 25 polishing rigs for sheet metal finishing, 6 Votan spherical grinding machines, and 3 BSA capping machines.*
- f. Another unit of Plant I carries out the overhauling of aircraft engines. Fifty workers are employed in this shop and they achieve an output of five to seven motors per week. All activities involving aircraft engines at Plant I are under military supervision; workers are paid from Army funds.

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g. The injection pump shop of Plant I produced 10,000 pumps as of late March 1949. A large number of these pumps were rejected by the Praga works since their component material, which had been delivered from Russia, was of inferior quality. According to recent reports, some of the alloys supplied by the USSR were found unfit for use even though the Avia works reprocessed them three times.

h. No information has been received concerning Plant II of the Avia Works.

2. Skoda (formerly Rachman Brothers) Instrument Works

a. This plant, which produces precision instruments for military use, for ships, and for submarines, is allegedly the only plant of its kind in Czechoslovakia. Two thousand persons, working in one shift, are employed. The plant's machinery, which is of a superior quality, was obtained from Germany in 1939.

b. The instrument plant is connected with a high tension grid through the Ceska Lipa relay station. In the event of damage to the Ceska Lipa station, the Decin power plant would supply the instrument plant with current. The Decin plant receives its coal from the Partizan mine at Mestecko; eight to ten tons are consumed every 24 hours.

3. Chomutov Tube Rolling Mill**

a. The tube rolling mill at Chomutov, formerly a Mannesmann Röhren enterprise, is currently producing tubes and pipes ranging in size from 2 to 500 mm. The plant is managed by one Duchon, who is assisted by Piner and Matrnai. The social manager(sic) of the plant is one Jancata, a minor Communist functionary from Kladno. The chairman of the shop council is one Trnka.

b. The Chomutov works are normally guarded by firemen and some 30 unarmed gate-keepers who are permanently stationed at the six gates. In addition, a factory militia of 90 men, organized into three platoons, has been established. Each militiaman is on guard duty once a month and receives 50 crowns for this service. The men are encouraged to forfeit their claims to payment so that the money may be used to purchase more arms and equipment for the unit.

c. The plant fire brigade is equipped with three fire engines, two auxiliary pumping units, and an ambulance. The entire plant is surrounded by a wooden fence which is topped with three strands of barbed wire.

d. The Chomutov mill is organized into the following divisions:

1) Apprentices' Division: Headed by one Maties, who supervises the training of approximately 170 apprentices.

2) Bottle Testing Division: This unit tests some 600 high-pressure flasks per week; the flasks' capacities range from 85 to 115 liters. Thirty workers are employed.

3) Chromium Plating Division: Processes chromium covers for precision tubing; employs 10 to 12 workers.

4) Drilling Pipe Division: Cuts threads into pipes used for test drilling, paints them and stencils them with Russian lettering. Most of these pipes are delivered to Russia and Romania; a Romanian official personally took delivery for some time. Pipes range from 18 to 20 mm. in diameter. Seven to eight truckloads are processed weekly by 50 to 60 workers operating in two shifts.

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- 5) Gas Container Division: Maintains two containers, 15 m. in diameter and 25 m. high.
- 6) Generator Division: Maintains eight gas generators; supplementary gas is piped in from the Stalin Works. Three shifts of 16 men each are employed by this division.
- 7) Hardening Plant: One shift of four workers operates two gas-fired hardening ovens for the toughening of tools.
- 8) Installation Division: For the maintenance of water pipes; 25 workers in one shift.
- 9) Machine House: Provides power for the entire gas works. A steam engine and an electric motor are kept permanently working. Three men per shift.
- 10) Machinery Division: Repairs machine tools and carries out general overhauls. Seventy workers in one shift and an emergency crew for running repairs are employed.
- 11) Printing Division: Prints propaganda and recruiting material and business stationery for the plant; eight to ten persons are employed.
- 12) Roller Milling Division: Re-mills worn-out rollers. Wear is fairly great and approximately 25 rollers per day are processed by this division. Workers: 20 to 25 in one shift.
- 13) Steam Boiler Division: Maintains four boilers for the engines of the machine house and heating plant. Three shifts of 15 men each.
- 14) Steel Flask Division: Produces high-pressure bottles and flasks, which arrive already cut to shape. Twenty-five workers in one shift.
- 15) Transport Division: Under the direction of one Holik it administers the narrow and normal-gauge railway spurs serving the plant. Two normal-gauge steam locomotives, eight narrow-gauge steam locomotives (35-60 European horsepower), and two gasoline locomotives (30 and 80 European horsepower) are used by the division. The division owns 500 narrow-gauge tipping cars, 200 cars for the hauling of pipes up to 5 meters in length, 45 dual cars for hauling pipes 10 to 12 meters in length, 5 platform cars, 50 cars for small ingots, and 30 cars for large ingots. Ninety employees working in three shifts are employed.

4. Marshal Tito Works, Prague-Vinohrady

- a. The Marshal Tito Works*** produce locomotives, trolley busses, electric motors, and water turbines. From May 1948 to February 1949, fifteen large locomotives were constructed for delivery to the USSR. Production chief at the Marshal Tito Works is one Cihak.
- b. The press shop of the Marshal Tito Works contains 25 eccentric presses which are operated by 30 workers. The foundry turns out castings for the water turbines and alloyed parts for electric motors. It is equipped with six smelting furnaces.
- c. The assembly shop, which employs 65 men, is the largest unit of the works and turns out trolley busses and small electric locomotives for mines. Chief of the shop is a certain Pokorny; his deputy is one Cermak. A bottleneck has been encountered in the procurement of insulating materials, which

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previously came from Sweden. Bodies for trolley busses, which are normally delivered from France, have also ceased to arrive. In the meantime, the shop is only assembling electrical equipment.

- d. The Marshal Tito complex has its own electric plant, but used this current only in the event of a breakdown in the outside supply. Normal current is obtained from the SCE grid.

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* [REDACTED] Comment: Although this unit is referred to as an assembly shop, the number and types of machine tools with which it is equipped would enable it actually to manufacture engines, and not merely to assemble them.

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** [REDACTED] Comment: The information on the Chomutov tube rolling mill was provided by a mechanic who was employed at this plant until mid-December 1948.

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*** [REDACTED] Comment: The Marshal Tito Works have probably since been renamed.

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